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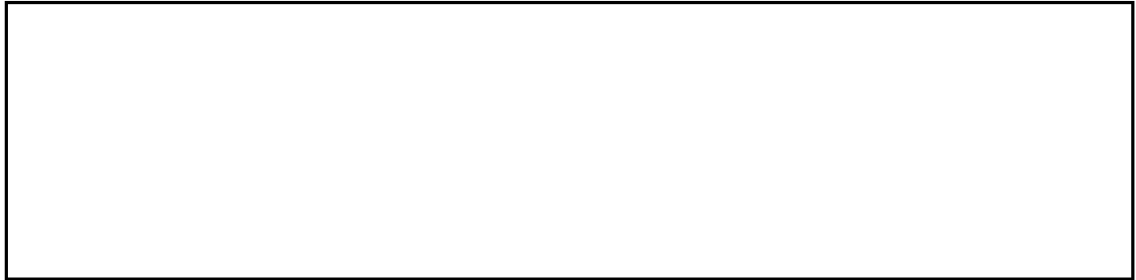
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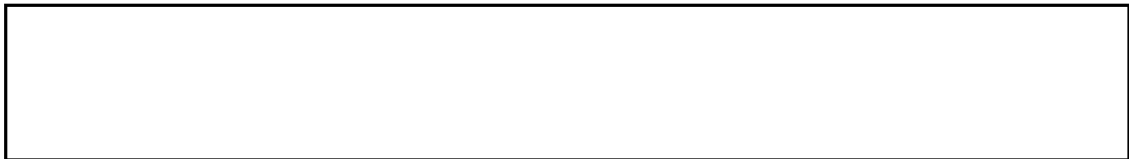
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LEBANON

Lebanon's Muslim and leftist leaders are growing increasingly impatient with Christian negotiators, who are continuing to haggle over the terms of a political settlement. The two sides appeared near agreement on the fundamentals of a reform program last week, but since then they have bogged down over specifics.

Following a meeting yesterday of Muslim leaders, leftist spokesman Kamal Jumblatt—a key figure in the negotiations—called for quick conclusion of a settlement and implementation of a reform program within 40 days. Although generally he is more strident than his colleagues, Jumblatt seemed to be voicing general frustration with Christian footdragging.

An aide to President Franjiyah told US officials yesterday that the main problem at this point involves regulation of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The Christians—led by Interior Minister Shamun—have been arguing that final agreement on political reforms must await resolution of the Palestinian issue.

Even if the Palestinian problem is resolved, the Christians may continue to insist on nailing down their exclusive control of the presidency—a point the Muslims have so far refused to include in a written agreement.

A potentially more dangerous problem may arise over the timetable for implementing reforms. A leading member of the Christian Phalanges Party said yesterday that the Christians believe they could block any basic changes until presidential elections in September.

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TURKEY

The wave of terrorism, chronic campus unrest, and street violence that has claimed more than 20 lives in Turkey since last fall may be taking on anti-US overtones.

Turkish police officials have told US embassy contacts that extreme leftist groups have formed roving bands to attack US personnel and property, concentrating at first on an Ankara shopping district frequented by Americans. In Ankara earlier this week, a US government vehicle was bombed. The radical Turkish People's Liberation Army—driven underground in the early 1970s and quiet since then—is thought to be connected with this bombing incident.

The group also figures in speculation about the murder last week of two policemen in eastern Turkey, where recently there has been increasing evidence of extreme leftist activity. Unconfirmed reports claimed that the four alleged killers—three of whom have since been slain by police—were members of the organization.

Until now, the domestic disorders have centered primarily on fighting between left- and right-wing groups affiliated, however loosely, with the academic community. The recent developments may reflect a fundamental change in the tactics of the extreme left and could augur a return to the more widely focused violence that wracked Turkey in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

With his administration already under fire for the campus disorders, Prime Minister Demirel will do whatever he can to prevent any further leftist terrorism from getting out of hand. The military ousted him in 1971 for his inability to do so. Demirel has at his disposal some powers he did not have earlier, although his ability to apply them will continue to be hampered by the presence in his coalition government of National Action Party leader Turkes, whose right-wing followers are involved in the disorder.

Military leaders last week vetoed use of martial law to combat the student unrest, but they would seem likely to change their stance if terrorism should threaten to overtax civil controls.

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YUGOSLAVIA

Belgrade seems to be coping with the return of workers from Western Europe, despite the country's economic problems.

Because of depressed economic conditions, approximately 80,000 Yugoslavs who had been employed abroad returned home last year, raising the net total of returnees in 1974 and 1975 to as many as 140,000. An estimated 800,000 Yugoslavs remain employed in Western Europe.

While the number of returnees is not great when viewed as part of a labor force of about 9 million, more than 560,000 Yugoslavs are unemployed and the economy is experiencing an annual inflation rate of about 25 percent. The rate of those returning is apparently on the increase, and should this continue, it could have serious economic and political consequences for Belgrade.

Belgrade's primary approach to date has been to encourage the creation of new jobs in fields that have traditionally been in the private sector. The workers have been urged to invest their savings in local enterprises, and West European countries are being encouraged to provide technical education and other assistance to those returning to Yugoslavia. Yugoslav officials are apparently willing to subordinate ideological beliefs in order to deal with the more immediate problems created by the workers' return.

The Yugoslavs are undoubtedly sensitive to the need to absorb the growing number of returnees; particularly in view of their exposure to life in Western Europe. The influx of workers is accentuating the country's economic problems, which in part contribute to potential political and social unrest.

President Tito's "hostile forces" campaign is designed to curb dissident activity, but the continued inflow of laborers over the long run could make this task more difficult.



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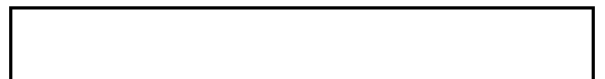
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